Design and Production

Practicum Notes

Practicum hours are a chance for students to further hone and develop the skills that are taught in class. Practicum sessions are designed to be a furtherance of classroom experiences and a chance for the student to get more experience than they would in the normal class settings. Practicum hours are not a chance for students to work on class projects or simply a time to hang out with friends after school. Class work may be done but no practicum hours will be assigned unless previously approved by Mr. Wheeler. Students who are disruptive or will not stay on task will be asked to sign out and leave the practicum session. If a student is sent home more than twice a parent-teacher meeting will need to be scheduled in order for the student to be allowed to stay after school again.

Students may fulfill their practicum hour’s requirement by working during scheduled practicum times after school. There will be one Saturday available every nine weeks as well as multiple after school opportunities during the same period. The practicum schedule is posted in the shop and on Mr. Wheeler’s homework page on the DFA website. If there are changes to this schedule they will be posted and announced in class. Students will be responsible for knowing about changes that are announced in class.

Stagecraft students will sign up for work shifts at the beginning of each semester. Technical Theatre students will be required to work a pre-determined number of hours per semester. You will be graded on these hours on progress reports and at the end of each nine weeks. Mr. Wheeler will keep hour sheets for each student. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU SIGN IN AND OUT each time you come to practicum.

The practicum requirements are as follows:

Middle School/High School Stagecraft 1, 2, &3

 Each student will sign up for two (2) work shifts each nine weeks

Technical Theatre 1, 2, & 3

 1st 9 Weeks 18 hours required

 2nd 9 Weeks 18 hours required

 3rd 9 Weeks 18 hours required

 4th 9 Weeks 18 hours required

Technical Theatre 4

 1st 9 Weeks 27 hours required

 2nd 9 Weeks 27 hours required

 3rd 9 Weeks 27 hours required

 4th 9 Weeks 27 hours required

 Students may also sign up to work on a technical crew for a DFA show in order to receive practicum hours. These will involve some after school hours and evening hours depending on the performance. The hours for each show will be listed on the sign-up sheet so the student may check their personal schedule before signing up. Not all students who sign up will get assigned to the show. I will make every effort to make sure that every student gets to work at least one show during the school year. Students will get matching hours for shows that they sign up to work. This means that if a student signs up to work a music concert and works 4 hours, they will receive 8 hours of practicum time. There is a limit to matching hours though! The time limits are as follows:

Level 1 Show – 5 hours matching limit

Level 2 Show – 10 hours matching limit

Level 3 Show – 15 hours matching limit

Show levels are determined by the following guidelines:

Level 1: This is usually a one or two-night commitment. Students will come in before the show and be trained for that night’s performance. Due to the short amount of days to get the production together there are no absences allowed except in case of emergency circumstances.

 Level 2: This is usually only a one or two-week commitment. Students will have about 5 days after school rehearsals and then one or two evening performances, although this may vary given the production. Students will be able to see the entire schedule before signing up so they can look at their personal schedules and determine if they will be able to complete the production. Due to the short amount of days to get the production together there are no absences allowed except in case of emergency circumstances.

 Level 3: This is a multi-week commitment; anywhere from 6-15 weeks before the production! Students will be expected to be available multiple days a week, evenings, and weekends. Students will know the dates of tech week and performance but not the work calls when they sign up. Students will receive a schedule for work calls after they are assigned to the crew. At that time students will have one week to confirm the dates with their calendars and turn in a list of days that they cannot be in attendance, these days will be excused. **ANY** other days that the student is not in attendance will be considered unexcused, unless there is dire emergency circumstances. After two unexcused absences the student will be asked to remove themselves from the crew. Students will not lose hours they have already worked if they are asked to leave a show but will not receive the matching hours. A level one show is a large commitment to DFA and the work that we do. Please take this very seriously and be ready to commit to the schedule given.

 For all shows, students will be required to wear show blacks. This means black shoes, black socks, black pants, and a black shirt preferably long sleeve. It is very much preferred to not have any writing of any sort on any of the above items unless it is a DFA show shirt, which is acceptable. If a student is having trouble finding the following or only needs it for one show, please talk to me or to any of the upper-level design and production students.